



# News Release

## WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Public Affairs Office  
2400 Wright Street  
Madison, WI 53704

Contact: Lt. Col. Tim Donovan  
608-242-3050  
Cell: 608-516-1777

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Eau Claire-based Army National Guard infantry battalion ordered to active duty**

The Wisconsin National Guard received a mobilization order for one of the three infantry battalions in the 32nd “Red Arrow” Infantry Brigade over the weekend. The unit, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry, is headquartered in Eau Claire with subordinate units in seven other western Wisconsin communities.

Individual units mobilized with the battalion are:

- Headquarters and Headquarters Company — Eau Claire
- Detachment 1, Headquarters Company — Abbotsford
- Company A — Menomonie
- Company B — New Richmond
- Detachment 1, Company B — Rice Lake
- Company C — Arcadia
- Detachment 1, Company C — Neillsville
- Company D — River Falls

About 680 soldiers are affected by the mobilization order received Saturday [May 8]. Most of the battalion’s soldiers will mobilize at their unit armories June 20 and remain there for several days before moving to their mobilization station in Mississippi. A smaller number of unit leaders have already been on active duty at their armories, and others will mobilize earlier than June 20. Wisconsin Guard officials expect the unit will eventually deploy overseas.

Soldiers were first notified of the battalion’s alert March 1. Notifications to soldiers about the mobilization order began Monday evening [May 10].

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The battalion's mobilization order is for "an initial period of 18 months." It is expected that the unit will serve overseas for one full year following several months of mobilization processing and predeployment training.

The Wisconsin infantry battalion mobilization follows an 18,000-troop alert announced by the Pentagon in late February. That alert also included brigade-sized units and other forces from several other states. The Wisconsin battalion is expected to become part of one of the other states' brigades.

When the infantry battalion is deployed, it will mark the first overseas operational deployment for a Wisconsin Army National Guard combat arms unit since World War II.

Mobilization of 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry will bring the total number of Wisconsin National Guard soldiers and airmen currently on active duty to about 1,380. In addition, about 720 Army Guard soldiers from three units remain on alert for possible mobilization.

With this mobilization, about 4,170 soldiers and airmen from the Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard — more than 42 percent of the Guard's total force in the state — will have served on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001.

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